



Section Eleven

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

INTRODUCTION

The violence within the American domicile has been recognized for decades by elements of government and society with little done to correct the problem. Only recently has this phenomenon begun to receive the attention it deserves. In an effort to understand, identify and treat the incidents of abuse occurring in the home, the State of New Jersey, through its legislature, has provided the means to gain a meaningful insight into this issue.

In 1982, the Domestic Violence Act was instituted to protect battered victims and study the complex problems that spark such aggressive behavior. This legislation also provided the opportunity to identify the causes of violence in the home and put forth a more comprehensive effort to combat the crime of Domestic Violence.

Improvements since the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act are continuing. Pursuant to a change in N.J.S.A. 2C:25-24 enacted, June 9, 1999, arrest data is presented by county. Domestic Violence restraining order violations are now captured and reported. Revised investigation and reporting procedures by the police; improved processing of domestic complaints by the courts; mandatory in-service training for police and court personnel have all enabled the victim to come forward and implement the constitutional rights granted to all Americans.

The following pages of narrative and graphics in this chapter are the result of gathered data displaying the complexities of domestic violence found within the State of New Jersey. It is through analysis of this data that, hopefully, the keys to preventing future violence can be found.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Highlights of the 2004 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 76,109 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 2004, a 2 percent decrease compared to the 77,567 reported in 2003.
- Murders decreased 23 percent in 2004 (44) when compared to 2003 (57).
- Assaults accounted for 44 percent (33,712) and harassment accounted for 41 percent (31,333) of the reported offenses in 2004.
- Arrests were made in 32 percent (24,014) of the offenses reported for 2004, the same percentage when compared to arrests made in 2003.
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (13,515).
- For the twenty-second consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 27 percent (20,823) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 35 percent of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 2004. Specifically, 5 percent (4,102) were involved and 30 percent (22,844) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 21 percent (16,309) and ex-wives were the victims in 3 percent (2,460) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 2004. Overall, females were victims in 77 percent (58,444) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 17,103 in 2003 to 16,188 in 2004. This is a decrease of 5 percent.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 29 percent (22,055) of the reported offenses occurring in 2004. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 26 percent (19,598) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3 percent (2,344) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 2004. Elderly were the victims in 20 percent (9) of the domestic violence murders (44).
- Domestic violence does not occur at a regular frequency, but when viewed as a ratio of its occurrence to a fixed time interval, one act of domestic violence would occur every 6 minutes and 54 seconds.
- Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 14 percent (10,786) of the state total.
- There were 3,527 total arrests involving domestic violence restraining orders reported by police in 2004. Of these, 1,956 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **only**, while 1,571 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **with** an offense arrest.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 2003/2004

Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	★Number of Arrests	★Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	2003	57	29	51
	2004	44	27	61
	Percent Change	-23	-7	20
Assault	2003	35,193	16,965	48
	2004	33,712	16,247	48
	Percent Change	-4	-4	0
Terroristic Threats	2003	4,523	1,327	29
	2004	4,194	1,285	31
	Percent Change	-7	-3	7
Kidnapping	2003	24	9	38
	2004	44	19	43
	Percent Change	83	&	13
Criminal Restraint	2003	140	64	46
	2004	159	79	50
	Percent Change	14	23	9
False Imprisonment	2003	52	31	60
	2004	46	23	50
	Percent Change	-12	-26	-17
Sexual Assault	2003	234	78	33
	2004	212	77	36
	Percent Change	-9	-1	9
Criminal Sexual Contact	2003	46	15	33
	2004	57	17	30
	Percent Change	24	13	-9
Lewdness	2003	11	3	27
	2004	9	1	11
	Percent Change	-18	&	-59
Criminal Mischief	2003	4,756	1,524	32
	2004	4,809	1,518	32
	Percent Change	1	*	0
Burglary	2003	671	238	35
	2004	621	218	35
	Percent Change	-7	-8	0
Criminal Trespass	2003	556	190	34
	2004	537	193	36
	Percent Change	-3	2	6
Harassment	2003	30,986	4,058	13
	2004	31,333	4,241	14
	Percent Change	1	5	8
Stalking	2003	318	74	23
	2004	332	69	21
	Percent Change	4	-7	-9
TOTAL	2003	77,567	24,605	32
	2004	76,109	24,014	32
	Percent Change	-2	-2	0

★ Incidents are reported soon after they occur; therefore, arrests made after that time are not included.

& Percent change not calculated due to small volume.

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY

2003/2004

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Atlantic	2003	2	1,844	216	1	6	1	16	2
	2004	-	1,748	223	2	12	-	6	3
Bergen	2003	4	2,205	368	1	13	11	22	3
	2004	3	2,040	336	2	11	1	16	3
Burlington	2003	3	1,582	101	2	7	3	7	-
	2004	2	1,481	107	-	9	2	9	5
Camden	2003	7	3,457	291	4	12	7	30	5
	2004	2	3,448	237	4	18	3	26	2
Cape May	2003	-	563	31	-	4	-	1	-
	2004	1	577	40	2	1	-	4	3
Cumberland	2003	7	1,753	145	-	7	1	12	2
	2004	2	1,763	117	4	7	2	15	2
Essex	2003	8	3,324	720	-	6	4	24	2
	2004	3	2,527	546	6	12	2	16	4
Gloucester	2003	6	1,405	104	-	5	-	4	3
	2004	1	1,428	104	2	10	3	9	-
Hudson	2003	5	2,589	430	1	6	4	16	3
	2004	3	2,579	397	5	9	1	11	5
Hunterdon	2003	1	195	35	-	3	-	2	2
	2004	2	167	20	-	-	-	-	-
Mercer	2003	2	1,797	57	2	4	4	12	4
	2004	3	1,796	53	5	7	4	11	4

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY

2003/2004

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
1	238	28	27	3,258	26	5,666	-1	1,572
1	238	20	23	3,310	22	5,608		1,604
1	184	10	75	2,344	34	5,275	-7	1,396
-	189	29	58	2,183	31	4,902		1,324
1	222	21	36	1,701	9	3,695	-3	2,180
1	236	19	31	1,658	10	3,570		1,987
2	585	124	60	2,500	31	7,115	-5	2,656
1	608	84	41	2,284	15	6,773		2,474
-	70	10	12	535	3	1,229	5	449
-	82	6	16	560	2	1,294		477
-	248	42	19	1,209	6	3,451	*	1,153
-	231	27	20	1,267	7	3,464		1,086
1	380	66	27	931	39	5,532	-21	1,525
1	306	67	23	821	33	4,367		1,206
-	216	20	24	1,260	7	3,054	6	1,072
-	214	23	41	1,384	8	3,227		1,105
-	286	61	16	1,758	20	5,195	2	1,058
1	247	53	19	1,938	30	5,298		1,032
-	28	1	10	291	1	569	-7	147
-	27	-	4	310	1	531		152
1	315	37	23	1,387	6	3,651	-3	1,038
1	301	41	24	1,289	12	3,551		1,212

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY

2003/2004

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Middlesex	2003	1	2,412	386	1	9	1	20	1
	2004	5	2,318	420	1	10	8	17	6
Monmouth	2003	1	2,128	291	1	15	4	7	4
	2004	2	2,252	267	4	7	7	14	5
Morris	2003	1	970	173	1	6	3	5	1
	2004	2	989	169	-	10	4	9	2
Ocean	2003	1	2,229	332	3	11	1	14	2
	2004	5	2,105	361	3	14	3	8	3
Passaic	2003	3	2,809	536	2	13	5	24	5
	2004	4	2,566	505	2	8	3	14	3
Salem	2003	-	354	18	1	1	-	-	-
	2004	-	494	17	-	3	-	4	-
Somerset	2003	-	770	24	-	3	1	3	3
	2004	1	713	17	1	-	2	9	-
Sussex	2003	-	416	47	-	-	-	1	-
	2004	-	407	45	-	-	-	1	-
Union	2003	5	2,006	160	4	7	2	10	4
	2004	2	1,933	162	1	7	1	12	4
Warren	2003	-	385	58	-	2	-	4	-
	2004	1	381	51	-	4	-	1	3
TOTAL	2003	57	35,193	4,523	24	140	52	234	46
	2004	44	33,712	4,194	44	159	46	212	57

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY

2003/2004

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
1	367	43	44	1,659	23	4,968	1	1,681
-	377	30	35	1,739	34	5,000		1,640
-	314	44	28	2,237	19	5,093	5	1,617
1	354	38	50	2,300	27	5,328		1,803
1	155	8	19	1,183	11	2,537	4	723
1	201	19	23	1,198	17	2,644		748
1	331	45	40	2,443	29	5,482	1	1,345
-	354	48	36	2,581	32	5,553		1,360
-	290	62	36	1,173	23	4,981	-5	2,043
1	285	57	21	1,221	29	4,719		1,775
-	58	3	8	279	1	723	35	300
-	68	10	14	362	1	973		417
-	127	9	15	1,451	7	2,413	-5	602
-	124	8	16	1,405	7	2,303		547
-	58	4	9	758	3	1,296	-2	330
-	55	4	8	753	1	1,274		313
1	218	27	18	1,888	13	4,363	1	1,487
-	252	35	25	1,977	5	4,416		1,528
-	66	6	10	741	7	1,279	3	231
-	60	3	9	793	8	1,314		224
11	4,756	671	556	30,986	318	77,567	-2	24,605
9	4,809	621	537	31,333	332	76,109		24,014

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 2000 Through 2004

Domestic Violence Offense	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	39	21	40	23	52	33	57	29	44	27
Assault	36,602	18,338	39,092	18,674	36,823	17,800	35,193	16,965	33,712	16,247
Terroristic Threats	4,395	1,312	4,808	1,409	4,593	1,366	4,523	1,327	4,194	1,285
Kidnapping	33	16	33	12	24	11	24	9	44	19
Criminal Restraint	131	58	128	47	160	70	140	64	159	79
False Imprisonment	37	17	39	24	43	21	52	31	46	23
Sexual Assault	196	66	204	71	201	69	234	78	212	77
Criminal Sexual Contact	59	18	58	9	75	25	46	15	57	17
Lewdness	5	-	10	4	10	2	11	3	9	1
Criminal Mischief	4,727	1,578	5,191	1,658	4,987	1,626	4,756	1,524	4,809	1,518
Burglary	633	215	730	246	670	237	671	238	621	218
Criminal Trespass	658	271	612	242	565	236	556	190	537	193
Harassment	29,869	3,789	31,096	4,041	31,348	4,206	30,986	4,058	31,333	4,241
Stalking	296	75	332	91	293	72	318	74	332	69
TOTAL	77,680	25,774	82,373	26,551	79,844	25,774	77,567	24,605	76,109	24,014

- Arrests for domestic violence offenses decreased 2 percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 2003/2004

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			TOTAL
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	2003	39	35	116	190
	2004	31	27	113	171
	Percent Change	-21	-23	-3	-10
Knife	2003	365	466	409	1,240
	2004	322	466	385	1,173
	Percent Change	-12	0	-6	-5
Other Dangerous Weapon	2003	393	1,144	384	1,921
	2004	372	1,117	363	1,852
	Percent Change	-5	-2	-5	-4
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	2003	766	18,638	14,350	33,754
	2004	719	17,815	13,933	32,467
	Percent Change	-6	-4	-3	-4
None	2003	-	-	40,462	40,462
	2004	-	-	40,446	40,446
	Percent Change	-	-	*	*
TOTAL	2003	1,563	20,283	55,721	77,567
	2004	1,444	19,425	55,240	76,109
	Percent Change	-8	-4	-1	-2

- Twenty-seven percent (20,869) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a 4 percent decrease when compared to the 21,846 that occurred in 2003.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (35,663), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 91 percent (32,467) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun decreased 10 percent when compared to 2003.
- Serious injuries were reported in 1,444 offenses, an 8 percent decrease when compared to the 1,563 reported in 2003.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE & SEX OF VICTIM 2004

Type of Offense		Relationship of Victim to Offender							Total Number of Offenses
		Spouse	Ex-spouse	Co-parent	Relative	Friend	Ex-friend	Total	
Homicide	Male	1	-	-	6	7	-	14	44
	Female	7	1	2	7	9	4	30	
Assault	Male	2,008	166	904	1,853	2,647	491	8,069	33,712
	Female	6,755	522	5,116	2,836	8,376	2,038	25,643	
Terroristic Threats	Male	136	39	65	184	152	103	679	4,194
	Female	1,004	245	675	343	643	605	3,515	
Kidnapping	Male	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	44
	Female	6	-	11	2	14	10	43	
Criminal Restraint	Male	2	-	1	4	3	-	10	159
	Female	33	4	27	9	53	23	149	
False Imprisonment	Male	-	-	1	2	3	1	7	46
	Female	9	1	2	3	19	5	39	
Sexual Assault	Male	-	-	-	1	2	-	3	212
	Female	41	5	35	15	77	36	209	
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	57
	Female	9	3	7	6	22	8	55	
Lewdness	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	9
	Female	4	-	-	1	1	2	8	
Criminal Mischief	Male	252	46	192	244	397	197	1,328	4,809
	Female	736	103	652	583	944	463	3,481	
Burglary	Male	20	11	11	26	20	43	131	621
	Female	46	33	105	55	96	155	490	
Criminal Trespass	Male	13	8	11	41	26	29	128	537
	Female	61	44	68	60	98	78	409	
Harassment	Male	1,944	478	887	1,210	1,675	1,067	7,261	31,333
	Female	7,555	1,456	3,634	2,326	5,486	3,615	24,072	
Stalking	Male	5	4	5	-	6	11	31	332
	Female	43	43	28	6	47	134	301	
TOTAL	Male	4,383	752	2,078	3,571	4,939	1,942	17,665	-
	Female	16,309	2,460	10,362	6,252	15,885	7,176	58,444	
GRAND TOTAL		20,692	3,212	12,440	9,823	20,824	9,118	76,109	76,109

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved)✦ 2004

Domestic Violence Offense	Total Number of Offenses	Substance Involved			Total Alcohol and Drugs	Percent of Offenses Involving Alcohol or Drugs
		Only Alcohol	Only Drugs	Both Alcohol and Drugs		
Homicide	44	10	2	1	13	29.5
Assault	33,712	10,818	624	643	12,085	35.8
Terroristic Threats	4,194	713	99	79	891	21.2
Kidnapping	44	9	1	1	11	25.0
Criminal Restraint	159	41	4	4	49	30.8
False Imprisonment	46	14	4	-	18	39.1
Sexual Assault	212	53	9	6	68	32.1
Criminal Sexual Contact	57	17	4	2	23	40.4
Lewdness	9	4	-	-	4	44.5
Criminal Mischief	4,809	1,313	102	89	1,504	31.3
Burglary	621	93	22	9	124	20.0
Criminal Trespass	537	105	8	12	125	23.3
Harassment	31,333	6,382	385	339	7,106	22.7
Stalking	332	26	4	4	34	10.2
TOTAL	76,109	19,598	1,268	1,189	22,055	29.0

✦ Indicates alcohol or drug use by either victim or offender.

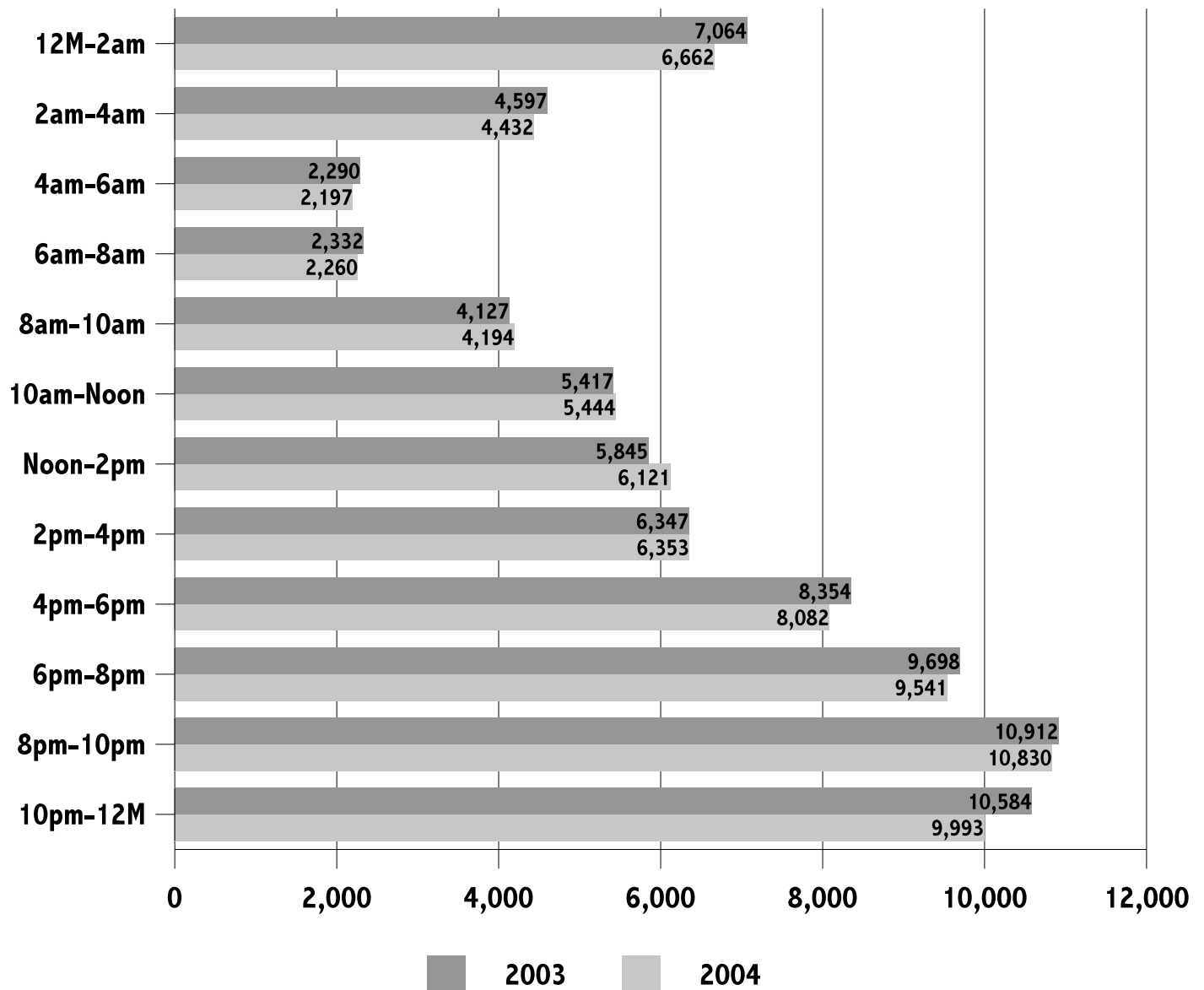
- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 30 percent (13) of domestic violence homicides.
- Twenty-nine percent (22,055) of the reported acts of domestic violence (76,109) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

OFFENSES AGAINST ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of age or over) 2004

Domestic Violence Offense	Total Number of Offenses	Relationship of Victim to Offender											
		Spouse		Ex-spouse		Co-parent		Relative		Friend		Ex-friend	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Homicide	9	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	1	-	-
Assault	846	81	157	4	1	7	13	173	262	67	66	9	6
Terroristic Threats	151	12	33	1	2	1	3	28	53	4	10	2	2
Kidnapping	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Criminal Restraint	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
False Imprisonment	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Criminal Sexual Contact	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Lewdness	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Mischief	185	8	4	1	-	2	3	45	87	17	10	7	1
Burglary	22	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	7	3	3	1	3
Criminal Trespass	39	-	1	-	-	-	2	11	22	-	1	1	1
Harassment	1,083	95	197	10	9	11	27	201	385	45	57	17	29
Stalking	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTAL	2,344	197	394	17	12	21	49	463	824	138	150	37	42

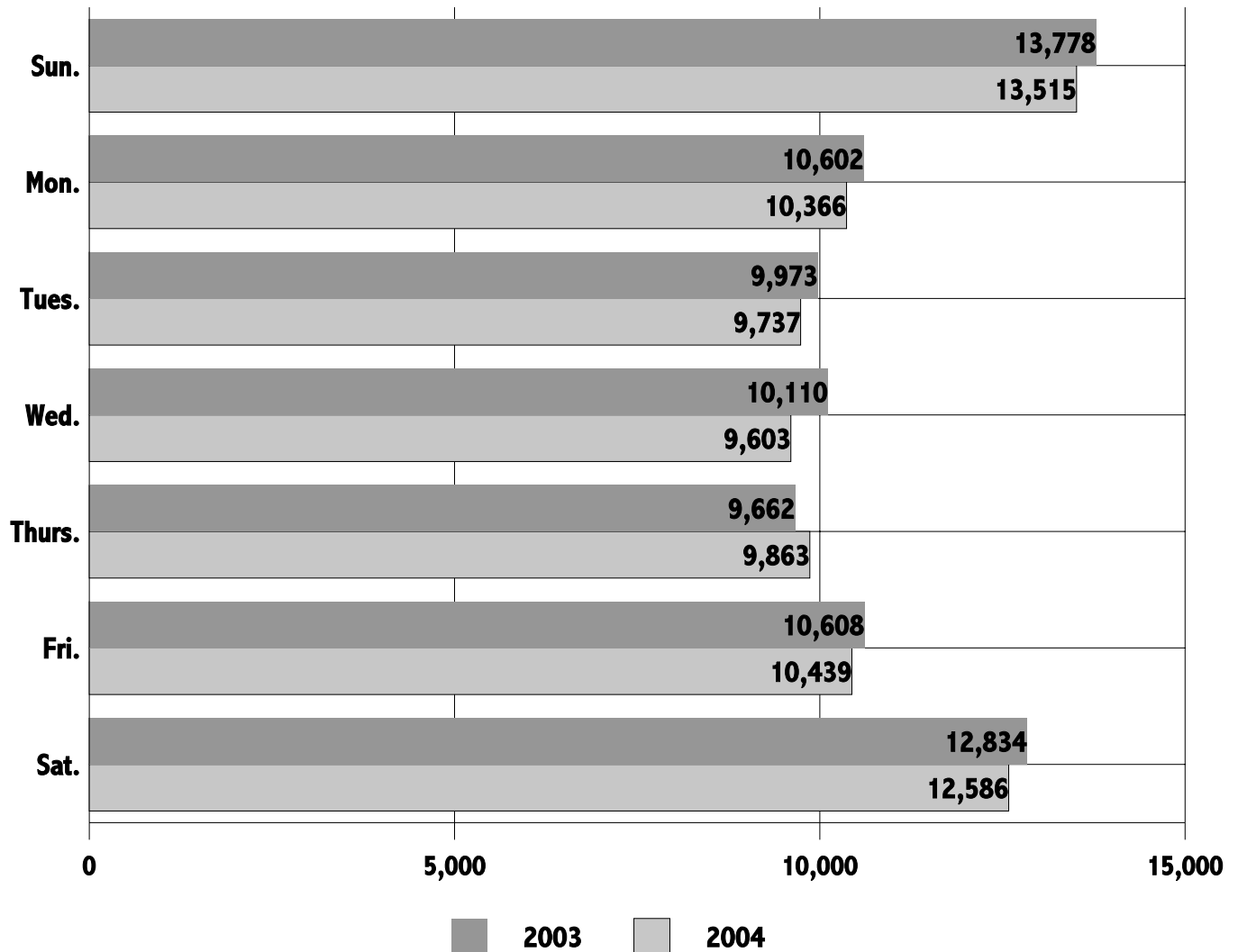
- Assaults accounted for 36 percent (846) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years old or over.
- Females age 60 or over were the victims in 63 percent (1,471) of the 2,344 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3 percent (2,344) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 2003/2004



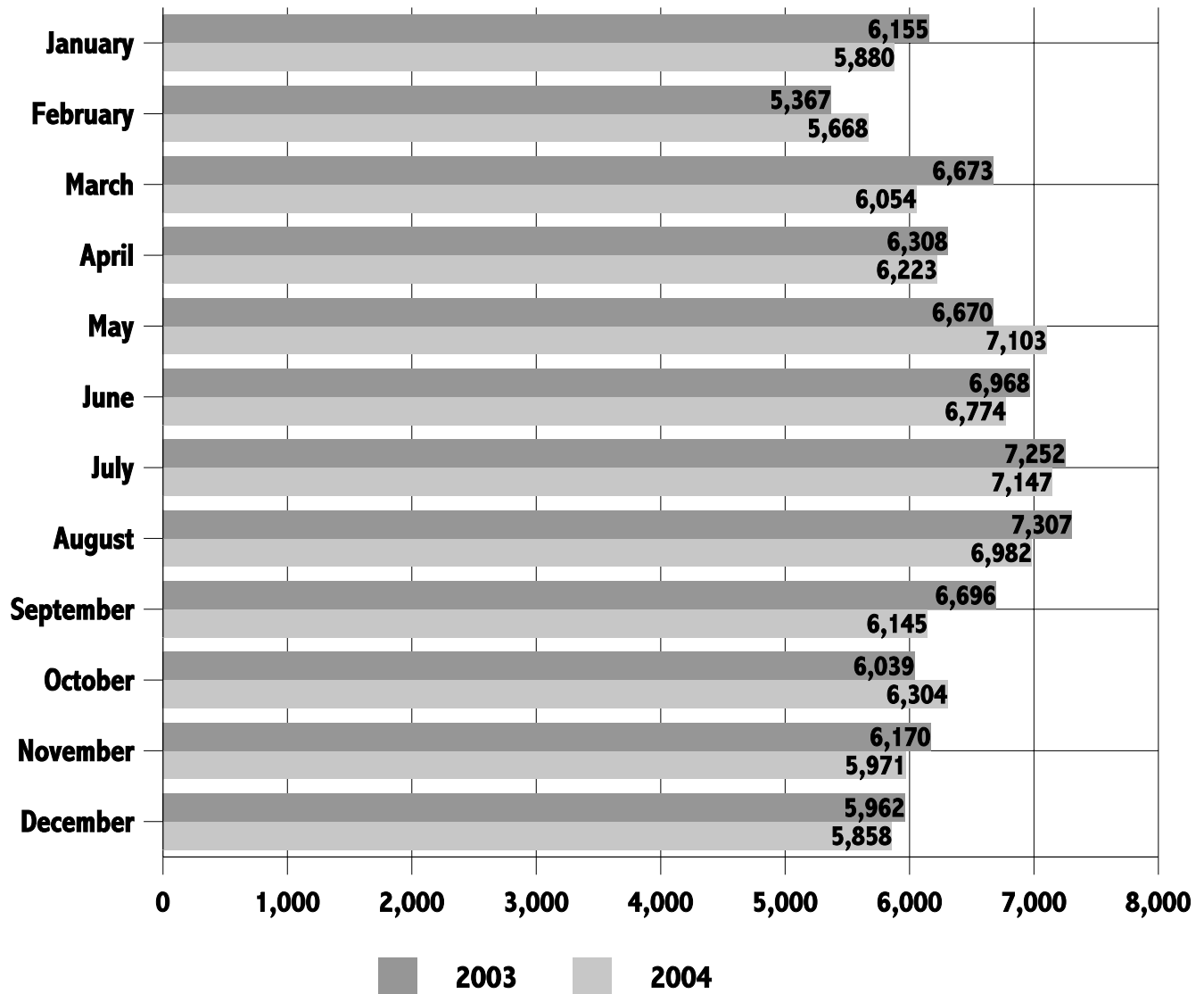
- During 2004, 27 percent (20,823) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 12 midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 2003/2004



- Sunday recorded the highest number of occurrences in 2004 with 13,515 offenses.
- During 2004, 34 percent (26,101) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 2003/2004



- In 2004, the highest number of domestic violence offenses occurred during the month of July.
- During 2004, the month with the lowest number of reported domestic violence offenses was February.

RESTRAINING ORDER ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2003/2004

	Domestic Violence Restraining Order Only			Domestic Violence Restraining Order with Offense Arrest			Total Arrests Involving Domestic Violence Restraining Orders		
	2003	2004	Percent Change	2003	2004	Percent Change	2003	2004	Percent Change
ATLANTIC	85	90	6	121	95	-21	206	185	-10
BERGEN	92	112	22	140	113	-19	232	225	-3
BURLINGTON	103	109	6	88	85	-3	191	194	2
CAMDEN	232	194	-16	262	197	-25	494	391	-21
CAPE MAY	55	61	11	39	47	21	94	108	15
CUMBERLAND	122	128	5	70	77	10	192	205	7
ESSEX	104	84	-19	63	63	0	167	147	-12
GLOUCESTER	113	115	2	107	107	0	220	222	1
HUDSON	83	62	-25	67	63	-6	150	125	-17
HUNTERDON	10	19	90	7	10	&	17	29	71
MERCER	72	74	3	87	111	28	159	185	16
MIDDLESEX	95	83	-13	65	66	2	160	149	-7
MONMOUTH	130	119	-8	90	84	-7	220	203	-8
MORRIS	66	109	65	44	53	20	110	162	47
OCEAN	197	154	-22	79	77	-3	276	231	-16
PASSAIC	161	166	3	96	80	-17	257	246	-4
SALEM	35	47	34	36	47	31	71	94	32
SOMERSET	119	99	-17	45	31	-31	164	130	-21
SUSSEX	35	35	0	20	16	-20	55	51	-7
UNION	75	68	-9	98	138	41	173	206	19
WARREN	17	28	65	7	11	&	24	39	63
STATE TOTALS	2,001	1,956	-2	1,631	1,571	-4	3,632	3,527	-3

& Percent not calculated due to small volume.